

BOROUGH OF DENBIGH

***Annual
Health Report***

1972

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BOROUGH OF DENBIGH

ANNUAL

HEALTH REPORT

1972

Medical Officer of Health:

M. T. ISLWYN JONES, M.D., B.S., F.F.C.M., D.P.H. (Lond.),
M.R.C.S. (Lond.), L.R.C.P. (Eng.).

A. L. J. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.F.C.M.,
D.P.H. (Wales), A.K.C., D.R.C.O.G.

County Council Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, Denbs.
Tel. No.: Ruthin 2361/2

Part Time Clerical Assistant

Mrs. J. BLACKHAM. Up to 11/2/72.

Mrs. C. COOPER. From 14/2/72.

Public Health Inspector

TREVOR H. ALDRICH, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

J. GWYN MORRIS, M.A.P.H.I.

Part-time Clerical Assistant

Mrs. G. MORRIS,

Council Offices, Whitehall, Denbigh.

Tel. No.: Denbigh 2471

I'r Maer, Henaduriaid a Chynghorwyr o Fwrdeisdref Dinbych

Mr. Maer, Henaduriaid a Chynghorwyr,

Y mae'n bleser mawr i'r Prif Arolygwr Iechyd ac i ninnau i gyflwyno ein harolwg ar iechyd yr ardal am y flwyddyn 1972.

Y mae'r dyfodiad cyflym o'r Ad-drefniant mewn Llywodraeth Leol a'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd yn creu ansicrwydd mawr i bawb sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gwasanaethau hyn. Prif bwrpas ad-drefniant y Gwasanaeth Iechyd yw uno'r gyfundrefn driphlyg bresennol, ond y perygl yn yr ad-drefnu hyn yw fod Iechyd yr Amgylchfyd (gwaith y Llywodraeth Leol mewn Ardal) a'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (gwaith y Llywodraeth Sir) yn cael eu gwahanu oddi wrth y Gwasanaethau Iechyd eraill, ac felly yn creu rhwygiadau a all arwain at anawsterau, os na fydd yna gynllunio gofalus i sicrhau cydweithrediad effeithiol. Y Ddeddf Gwasanaeth Iechyd Genedlaethol yn 1946 oedd yr ad-drefniant mawr diwethaf mewn gofal iechyd, a ddaeth yn weithredol ugain mis ar ôl derbyn y Cytundeb Brenhinol, ac y mae'n anhebygol y bydd y Ddeddf Ad-drefniant yng Ngwasanaeth Iechyd Cenedlaethol yn derbyn y Cytundeb Brenhinol cyn Haf 1973. Y mae'r amser felly yn fyr dros ben cyn ei weithrediad. Y mae'r Pwyllgor Cyd-Ymgynghorol a'r Pwyllgor o Swyddogion Ymgynghorol yn gwbl argyhoeddedig ei bod yn amhosibl i geisio gweithredu newidiadau mawr yn yr amser hwn, a'r ystyriaeth bwysicaf felly yw sicrhau na fydd unrhyw amhariad ar y gwasanaethau iechyd presennol mewn unrhyw ffordd.

Fe hoffwn ddiolch i chwi Mr. Maer, Cadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau, a'r Cynghorwyr am eich cymorth parod a'ch arweiniad. Fe hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i Swyddogion y Cyngor am bob help yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Yn gywir iawn,

M. T. ISLWYN JONES,

A. L. J. WILLIAMS,

Swyddogion Meddygol Iechyd.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Denbigh Borough Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

It gives the Chief Public Health Inspector and ourselves great pleasure to present our report on the health of the area for the year 1972.

The rapid approach of Local Government and Health Service Reorganisation creates a state of uncertainty for all concerned with the services. The main purpose of Health Service Reorganisation is the unification of the present tripartite system, but there is a danger in the restructuring whereby environmental health (local authority district function) and Social Services (local authority county function) are separate from the health services under the Area Health Authority, that this will create a schism which may give rise to difficulties unless careful planning is undertaken to ensure good liaison.

The last major reorganisation in health care was the National Health Service Act 1946 which came into operation twenty months after receiving the Royal Assent; it is unlikely that the National Health Service Reorganisation Bill will receive the Royal Assent before the summer of 1973 which will leave all too short a time for its implementation. The Joint Consultative and Officer Advisory Committees are fully aware that it is impossible to attempt major changes in this time and that the first priority must be to ensure that existing services will not be disrupted in any way.

We wish to thank you Mr. Mayor, the Chairmen of the Committees and the Councillors for your support and guidance; we also wish to thank the Officers of the Council for their cordial and ready help and assistance during 1972.

Your sincerely,

M. T. ISLWYN JONES,

A. L. J. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officers of Health.

Mayor of the Borough:

January - May, 1972: Alderman Edwin Cunnah

May - December, 1972: Councillor R. T. Davies

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

January - May, 1972: Councillor Gwilym Davies

May - December, 1972: Councillor F. W. Jones

Chairman of the Housing Committee:

January - May, 1972: Councillor David Jones

May - December, 1972: Councillor David Jones

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area of the Borough 9,072 acres

Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population ... 8,440

Rateable Value £304,739.00

Sum represented by a penny rate £2,664.44

The estimated population of the Borough during the year was 8,440 compared with 8,340 in 1971, a 1.2% increase.

Deaths

Comparability Factor79

	<i>England and Wales 1972</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	12.1	16.3	16.7
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population)	12.1	10.9	13.2
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total live and still-births)	12.0	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 total live births)	17.0	15.0	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ...	12.0	8.0	Nil
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	10.0	8.0	Nil
Peri-natal Mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still-births)	22.0	8.0	Nil

(Please see tables on pages 6 and 7)

The total deaths (141) shows a small increase of 3.7% compared with those for 1971. The crude death rate is 16.7 per thousand population which after adjustment for the age and sex distribution of the population gives a corrected death rate of 13.2 which is 9.1% greater than that of Wales and England (12.1). This year is the first time since 1963 that the death rate for Wales and England has exceeded 12.0 per thousand population. An increase in the death rate was inevitable and indicates that the deleterious effect of the ageing of the population has outstripped the beneficial effect of social and medical improvements.

Deaths in persons 75 years and over account for almost half (46%) of the total deaths and with the age group 65 to 74 years account for 83% of the total deaths. There were no deaths in the under 1 year nor the 5 to 14 year age groups. There was one death in the 1 to 4 year age group due to malignant disease and also one death in the 15 to 24 year age group due to a motor vehicle accident.

The following table shows the number of deaths which occurred during the year 1972.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages						
		1-4	15-24	25-34	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	F	1	—	—	—	1	2	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	F	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Anaemias	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anaemias	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Disorders	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mental Disorders	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System	F	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Hypertensive Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hypertensive Disease	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	—	—	1	2	3	7	10
Ischaemic Heart Disease	F	—	—	—	1	1	2	6
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Other Forms of Heart Disease	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	—	—	—	2	2	6	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	F	—	—	—	—	—	5	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	F	—	—	—	—	—	3	6

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	1-4	15-24	25-34	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Influenza	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
.....	M	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
.....	M	9	—	—	—	1	1	4	3
.....	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peptic Ulcer	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Appendicitis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
.....	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
.....	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Anomalies	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<hr/>									
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	79	—	1	1	6	9	29	33
.....	F	62	1	—	3	4	4	22	32

The most important cause of death was ischaemic heart disease, which accounted for the deaths of 23 men and 10 women, closely followed by cerebrovascular disease which caused the deaths of 18 men and 14 women.

Diseases associated with cigarette smoking namely cancer of the lung (3) ischaemic heart disease (33) and bronchitis and emphysema (9) caused 45 deaths, i.e., nearly one third of all deaths. It is also significant that of these deaths, 34 were in men and 11 in women, a 3-1, Male : Female ratio which reflects the smoking patterns of the population; this excess of male to female deaths more than accounts for the greater number (17) of deaths in men than women. There does not appear to have been any significant change in the smoking habits of the public in spite of the publicity given to the harmful effects of cigarette smoking. The only group who have changed their smoking habits are the medical profession and this has reduced the deaths of doctors from cancer of the lung more rapidly than even the most optimistic would have predicted. It is to be hoped that more of the population will follow this example.

All cancers caused a total of 20 deaths compared with 25 in 1971; one death occurred in a child under 5 years of age. Cancers are very rare in childhood but are very rapid in progress and resistant to treatment. These very tragic deaths are at present under detailed investigation to determine and eliminate the causative factors.

One young man died as the result of a complication of injury following a motor vehicle accident. Two ladies died as the result of complications following femoral fractures; both were patients at the North Wales Hospital; one had only recently celebrated her hundredth birthday.

Infant Deaths

There were no infant deaths during the year, compared with 2 in 1971, giving an infant mortality rate of Nil compared with 15 for 1971 and 17 for Wales and England (1972).

Still-Births

For the second year in succession there were no still-births.

Births

Comparability Factor	1.02
Number of births relating to residents	122

The births were classified as follows:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	55	59	114
Illegitimate	4	4	8
Still-births	—	—	—
	59	63	122

	<i>England and Wales</i> 1972	<i>Denbigh</i> 1971	1972
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	14.8	15.8	14.5
Corrected Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) ...	14.8	18.0	14.8

There were 122 births during the year which is 10 fewer than those for 1971 and 19 fewer than the total deaths for this year. There was one less illegitimate birth than in 1971.

The corrected birth rate of 14.8 per thousand population is equal to that for England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1972, arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified in 1971 is given in the first column for comparison.

<i>Notifiable Diseases</i>	<i>Total 1971</i>	<i>Total 1972</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-5 years</i>	<i>6-15 years</i>	<i>16-25 years</i>	<i>25-45 years</i>	<i>46-65 years</i>	<i>66 and over</i>	<i>Age Unknown</i>
Infective Jaundice ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2	12	—	9	3	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	64	—	—	—	4	16	21	15	8
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	76	—	9	3	4	16	21	15	8

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 76 compared with 23 for 1971.

An outbreak of food poisoning due to *Salmonella Typhimurium* occurred during the month of August with 63 cases, amongst patients and staff of the North Wales Hospital. Three elderly ladies who were suffering from other chronic diseases died during this outbreak. An immense amount of time and work was involved in containing and controlling this outbreak and we wish to thank the medical, nursing, catering and domestic staff of the hospital and the Public Health Inspectors of the County and the Borough, without whose co-operation, diligence and efforts the expeditious control of this outbreak would not have been possible. The probable source of the organism was poultry. Methods used in the feeding and particularly in the slaughter and preparation of chickens are such that they should at present be considered as potentially contaminated. Since instructions have been issued regarding the thawing and cooking of frozen chickens, human cases as the result of eating chicken are now less common, but the danger still exists of other food being secondarily contaminated unless scrupulous care is taken in the storage of food and the cleansing of utensils and working surfaces.

One other case of food poisoning due to *Salmonella Heidelberg* was notified. This case was one of an outbreak in a neighbouring area and again the probable source of infection was poultry.

During April, a butcher working in the borough but residing in a neighbouring area was notified to the Medical Officer of Health of that authority as suffering from food poisoning due to *Salmonella Typhimurium*. Action was taken under Section 41 of the Public Health Act 1961, to exclude him from work until he was free of the infection. All contacts at his place of work were investigated but all were found to be free of infection. No other cases occurred.

One resident of the borough was found to be suffering from Paratyphoid and was notified as such to a neighbouring authority. On enquiry it was found that she had contracted the disease 30 years previously and a period of general ill health had resulted in a recurrence of symptoms. Her family was investigated and found to be free of infection. It is probable that she has been excreting the organism intermittently for the past 30 years and it is a tribute to her high standard of hygiene that no other cases have occurred. She is being kept under surveillance.

Brucellosis

One human case of brucellosis was reported during the year, compared with none in 1971 and 2 in 1970. This case was a young man working with cattle. His employer was aware of the presence of infection in the cattle, but the public were not in danger as they

were not milking cows. The County Public Health Inspector takes regular samples of milk from all producer/retailers of milk and during 1972 evidence of infection was found in 13 cows in 2 separate herds. Until this disease is completely eradicated from cattle all whose work brings them into contact with cows or drink milk from infected animals are at risk of contracting this disease. Many human cases probably occur without being diagnosed because of the insidious chronic and indefinite nature of the disease in man. Pasteurisation of milk is an effective method of killing the brucella organism and other organisms such as Salmonellae which cause diseases in man and cattle.

Anthrax

No cases of this disease in animals or man were notified during the year, as in 1971.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the beginning and the end of the year.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number on Register on 1st January 1972	23	15	—	1	39
Number on Register on 31st December 1972	20	11	—	1	32

Seven cases of tuberculosis were removed from the register during the year. All seven cases were cured; and no new cases occurred.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following shows the number protected by prophylactic measures:

	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Booster</i>
Diphtheria	105	88
Whooping Cough	105	—
Tetanus	105	93
Poliomyelitis (Sabin)	101	86
Measles	80	—
Smallpox	4	—
Rubella	3	—

The number of children who received immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and tetanus is satisfactory. Whilst notifications of these diseases are now uncommon, reports from the Public Health Laboratory Service indicate the continuing presence of the causative organisms in the environment, thus it is extremely important to maintain a high level of immunity in the children. It is a tribute to the present generation of parents who have no personal experience of cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis that they ensure that their children are protected against these lethal diseases. The number of children receiving immunisation against measles is encouraging but has not yet attained the necessary level to prevent cases occurring. 12 cases of measles were notified during 1972.

The number of smallpox vaccinations was only 4 due to the national policy of discontinuing routine vaccination of infants. This was based on the very small number of cases of smallpox that have occurred in Wales and England in recent years. However, the low incidence of the disease is at least in part due to past vaccination programmes. With the increasing volume of rapid air travel between Britain and countries in Asia where the disease is still prevalent the risk of importation remains and many in the medical profession feel that the discontinuance of routine smallpox vaccination was premature.

Tuberculosis — B.C.G. Vaccination

The number of senior school children tested and B.C.G. vaccination were as follows: (These figures include children residing outside the Borough).

	<i>Denbigh Comprehensive School</i>
Number of children tested	138
Number of children found to be positive ...	8
Number of children found to be negative ...	130
Number of children given B.C.G. vaccination	130

The percentage of children giving positive reactions to the skin test was 6% compared with 20% during 1971. The positive reactors were investigated. No cases of tuberculosis were discovered. Positive skin tests are a sensitive indication of the prevalence of tubercle or closely related bacilli in the environment and it is pleasing to record this decreasing incidence of positive reactors.

Care of the Aged

A number of old people were visited during the year, but no case required action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway carries out bacteriological examinations of water, food, etc., to detect any contamination. Milk is also examined bacteriologically and biologically for the presence of tubercule bacilli and brucella abortus.

Examination of throat swabs, blood, faeces, etc., are carried out at Conway Public Health Laboratory to detect the presence of bacteria and viruses and specimens have also been accepted at Rhyl hospital laboratory.

Ambulance Service

The following is given for the information of the Council, and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year.

	<i>Ruthin/ Denbigh</i>	<i>Llanrwst</i>	<i>Pentrefoelas</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>No. of patients conveyed—</i>				
By ambulance	16,524	3,518	122	20,164
By car	10,407	4,308	1,493	16,208
<i>Total Mileage—</i>				
By ambulance	147,105	41,595	8,116	196,816
By car	80,745	49,121	28,849	158,715
No. of ambulances per station	7	1	1	9
Type of staff	8 full time	2 full time + 3 Vol.	6 Vol.	10 full time + 9 Vol.
No. of cars	7	5	3	15
<i>Area Summary</i>	<i>Number of journeys</i>	<i>Number of patients</i>	<i>Total mileage</i>	
Ambulances	4,675	20,164	196,816	
Cars	3,454	16,208	158,715	
	<u>8,129</u>	<u>36,372</u>	<u>355,531</u>	

Orthopaedic Clinic

This clinic is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month. Surgeons from the Gobowen Orthopaedic Hospital attend on the third Wednesday in each month.

Patients from the Borough also attend the orthopaedic clinics held weekly at Rhyl and Wrexham hospitals.

Venereal Disease Clinic

Clinics are held as follows:

<i>Place</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>
H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph.	Tuesday	4.30-6.30 p.m.
War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham.	Monday (Males)	5.00-7.00 p.m.
	Wednesday (Males & Females)	4.00-6.00 p.m.
	Friday (Males & Females)	5.00-7.00 p.m.

Family Planning Clinics

Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.	Monday	2.30-3.30 p.m.
	Thursday	7.00-8.30 p.m.
The Clinic, Fforddlas, Rhyl.	Wednesday	7.00-8.30 p.m.
The Clinic, Prestatyn.	Thursday	10.00-11.30 a.m.
The Clinic, King Street, Mold.	Every Thursday	9.30-11.00 a.m.
	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7-8.30 p.m.
The Infant Welfare Centre, Borough Grove, Flint.	Every Wednesday	10.00-12.15 p.m.
The Clinic, Connah's Quay.	Every Thursday	10.00-11.30 p.m.
The Clinic Mount Street, Ruthin.	2nd Wednesday	10.00-11.30 p.m.
	4th Wednesday	7.00- 8.30 p.m.

WREXHAM

Grosvenor Road	Wednesday	6.45-8.45 p.m.
	Thursday	2.00-3.30 p.m.
Prince Charles Road	Tuesday	12.00-1.30 p.m.

The Ruthin Family Planning Clinic continues to hold one morning and one evening session per month.

The total number of members has risen to 175 making 39 additional members in 1972, of these 39, 23 were recommended by the family doctor, 1 was officially referred and 2 from advertising.

17 of these 39 members were aged 25/29, 8 were between 20/24, 8 were over 34, 5 between 30/34 and 1 was under 20.

13 had had 2 pregnancies, 11 had no pregnancies, 7 had had 3 pregnancies, 6 had had 1 pregnancy and 2 had had 4 pregnancies.

24 members availed themselves of the cytological smear facility and all results have been negative.

Cervical Cytology Clinic

Clinics are held as follows:

I Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.	Thursday	5.30-8.00 p.m.
	By appointment only	
Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.	Monday	5.00-8.00 p.m.
	By appointment only	
Abergele Clinic.		

An informal request has been received from the National Council of Women for a Cytology Clinic to be held in Denbigh. Clinics will be held as and when required, appointments are necessary.

Both family planning and cervical cytology are also available from most family doctors but some patients, for personal reasons, prefer to attend a clinic and at present travel from Denbigh to other towns for the services.

Chest Clinic

Patients from the Borough attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary and at the weekly clinics held at the Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, Llangwyfan Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

School Ophthalmic Clinic

Clinics for school children are held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh, by appointment, and children attend ophthalmic clinics held at Denbigh and St. Asaph Hospital.

Child Guidance Clinic

Clinics are held as follows:

Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay.	Wednesday and Friday by appointment
Kelso House, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham.	Thursday and Friday by appointment
Mercier House Clinic, Russell Road, Rhyl.	Monday by appointment

Child Health Clinic

This clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon between 1.30 and 3.30 p.m. at the Clinic, Middle Lane, and is well attended as can be seen from the following attendance figures.

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>First Attendances Denbigh</i>
1972	119
1971	134
1970/67	146
Total attendances: Under 1 year	1,559
1-5 years	919

Welfare foods are available at the Clinic every Wednesday afternoon between 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. The number of first attendances was 399 compared with 350 in 1971, an increase of 14%. Total attendances during 1972 were 2,478 compared with 2,637 during 1971, a decrease of 6%.

Dental Clinic

The Mobile Dental Clinic visited the majority of the schools in the area during the year.

School Health Attendant

The School Health Attendant visited the schools in the area for the purpose of routine testing of children's vision and hearing. Children who were found to have defective hearing and/or vision were followed up and referred to a consultant for further examination where necessary. Colour vision tests are given to all boys at the age of 10 years.

The number of children tested during the year was as follows:

	<i>Audiometric Sweeps</i>	<i>Vision Sweeps</i>
Number of children tested	2,004	1,950
Number of children found satisfactory	1,711	1,821
Number referred to M.O.	40	—
Number referred to E.N.T.	—	—
Number of children on Vision Sweeps found defective	—	134
Number referred to School Nurse	—	96
Number referred to Eye Clinic	—	25
Number for observation	149	13

The commonest defects amongst school children are those of vision and hearing. As these are often symptomless and if uncorrected frequently impair the child's educational progress. The work of the School Health Attendants, in screening children for these defects, is extremely important.

Speech Therapy Clinic

This clinic is held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, by appointment on Thursdays. The children are referred from school teachers, health visitors, general practitioners and through medical officers.

The Speech Therapist, who is Welsh speaking, also visits the schools to discuss cases with the teachers and gives advice on how to handle speech defects amongst the children.

Nursing Services

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff serving the district:

Health Visitors:

Miss O. M. Hobson	Child Health Centre, Middle Lane, Denbigh
Mrs. P. Roberts	Tel. No.: Denbigh 2789.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

Miss E. Leach Jones	Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay.
	Tel. No.: Colwyn Bay 55271.

District Nurses and Midwives:

Mrs. E. A. Price	76 Vale Street, Denbigh.
	Tel. No.: Denbigh 2212.
Miss G. Hughes	Rossa Bach, Prion, Nr. Denbigh.
Mrs. B. Jones	Woodsdale, Castle View, Denbigh.
	Tel. No.: Denbigh 2310.
Miss A. C. Roberts	Aledfryn, 34 Llewelyn's Estate, Denbigh.

Relief District Nurse:

Mrs. E. Blundell	6 Maes Llan, Llandyrnog.
	Tel. No.: Llandyrnog 351.

COUNTY OF DENBIGH

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drug Act in the BOROUGH OF DENBIGH during the year ended 31st December 1972.

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Non genuine or sub-standard</i>
Milk	26	26	—
Rum butter	1	1	—
Cheese products	2	2	—
Malted milk	1	1	—
Pork pie	1	1	—
Sausage rolls	1	1	—
Chop Suey Veg	1	1	—
Curry powder	1	1	—
Salad Cream	1	1	—
Pickling Spice	1	1	—
Pilchards in tomato sauce	1	1	—
Sardines	1	—	1
Jelly	1	1	—
Currants	1	1	—
Fresh double cream	1	1	—
Ice lolly	1	1	—
Drinking chocolate	1	1	—
Tea	1	1	—
Whisky	1	1	—
Baby food	1	1	—
TOTALS	46	45	1

As will be observed from the table, 26 samples of milk and 20 samples of food other than milk were taken in the Borough of Denbigh during the year under review. All the samples of milk were reported as being genuine and 15 were subjected to further tests for the presence of antibiotics with a negative result in each case.

Only one food received an adverse report. This was an imported tin of sardines which contained a nail and the persons concerned were cautioned accordingly. Otherwise all samples were reported as being genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives, colouring matter etc.

D. HUGH OWENS,

Chief Officer,

County of Denbigh.

Trading Standards Department,
Ruthin Road,
Wrexham.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection is made throughout the area, all domestic properties are provided with paper sacks, whilst business premises use bins or sacks whichever is appropriate. 3,300 sacks and 500 bins are collected each week.

Large families and families with central heating are issued with two sacks on request, whilst the general public are able to purchase extra sacks from the Health Department at Whitehall. Provided the quantity is reasonable all refuse including garden refuse is removed.

A free collection of refuse is made from business premises once per week of three bins and any flattened cardboard boxes. Any additional collections are charged for.

A new lorry was brought into service during June, a Musketeer, which has a greater payload than the old Dennis Gibson Lorry which it has replaced.

The Dennis Paxit IIIc was tested by the Ministry of Transport at Wrexham and was granted a certificate of roadworthiness.

The chargehand, Mr. D. Ll. Jones, retired in September and Mr. T. D. Jones was appointed as refuse chargehand.

I would like to thank Mr. D. Ll. Jones for the valuable years of loyal service that he gave to the council and for the competent and pleasant manner in which he always performed his duties.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All the refuse from the area is deposited at one tip at Meifod Henllan. A full-time attendant is employed to regulate the Tip.

General refuse and old motor vehicles from the Borough are accepted free of charge at Meifod Tip during working hours.

SALVAGE

Waste paper is sorted and baled at the Old Butter Market, Factory Place. The depot is near the town centre and waste paper and cardboard can be brought to the depot for disposal at any time during normal working hours.

Due to the continuing economic situation the Paper Mills requested the Council to send only the minimum amount of paper to them, there was also a strike at Thames Board Mills, Warrington, which prevented any deliveries being made.

The bonus scheme paid out £71.50 to the refuse collection staff in the year ending 31st March 1972.

Householders who find difficulty in making the refuse sack last the week would ease their problem if all the cardboard, news-paper, and clean waste paper were to be kept separately for collection.

DETAILS OF WASTE PAPER SOLD

Period ending 31st March 1972

<i>Fibreboard</i>	<i>Mixed Paper</i>	<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>Total</i>
Weight: 66.23 tons	Weight: 27.45 tons	Weight: 23.80 tons	Weight: 117.48 tons
Value: £794.76	Value: £281.36	Value: £294.99	Value: £1,371.11

COST OF REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Twelve months ending 31st March 1972

Total cost 1971-72	£19,186.00
Less income from salvage and other recoveries	£ 1,578.00

Nett cost of Collection and Disposal	£17,608.00
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Population	8,440
Area	9,072 acres
Number of men employed	9
Number of vehicles	2
Average haul to tip	3 miles
Nett cost of collection	£17,608

RECORD OF NETT ANNUAL COST

1961-62	£4,612.00
1962-63	£5,521.00
1963-64	£6,245.00
1964-65	£7,603.00
1965-66	£8,585.00
1966-67	£10,845.00
1967-68	£13,841.00
1968-69	£12,994.00
1969-70	£13,834.00
1970-71	£15,762.00
1971-72	£17,608.00

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE

Houses demolished	NIL
Unfit houses closed	16
Persons displaced	32
Families displaced	16
Unfit houses made fit after formal or informal action	14
Other houses in which defects were remedied after formal or informal action	23
Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with Slum Clearance and housing repairs	69

Tenants for Council Houses are selected by the Housing Committee which is guided by a points scheme. The waiting period of twelve months before coming on to the list was reduced to six months in December.

All applicants in the Borough are visited by the Public Health Inspector and the housing needs and circumstances of each applicant are investigated before points are awarded. All applications in which the medical condition of the applicant or family may be significant were visited by the Medical Officer of Health.

The construction of fifty three dwellings at Bryn Seion was practically completed during the year. The letting of the eight bungalows, twelve flats and the houses so far completed has enabled the Council to complete the slum clearance programme and to considerably reduce the number of applicants on the housing waiting list.

The Council has also undertaken the improvement of one hundred and seven of its older houses many of which will be reduced from three bedrooms to two bedrooms by the utilisation of the third bedroom as a bathroom.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Eight applications were received, of which six were up to the necessary standard required for approval.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

There was a considerable increase in the number of applications for grants during the year. The 75% of grant payable which was to be reduced to 50% on the 23rd June 1973 has now been extended to 23rd June 1974.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS 1972

Number of applications received during the year.

			1972	1971
(a) Owner occupied ...	44	Number approved	44	17
(b) Tenanted	18	Number approved	18	3
Total	62	Total	62	20

Amount of Grants approved	£74,135
Number of Improvement Grants paid	34
Amount paid in Improvement Grants	£29,965
Average Grant per house	£ 881

STANDARD GRANTS

Number of applications received during the year.

			1972	1971
(a) Owner occupied ...	3	Number approved	3	5
(b) Tenanted	1	Number approved	1	2
Total	4	Total	4	7

Amount of Grants approved	£1,477
Number of Standard Grants paid	3
Amount paid in Standard Grants	£ 728
Average Grant per house	£ 243

AMENITIES PROVIDED

(i) Fixed bath	3
(ii) Wash basins	3
(iii) Hotwater supplies	3
(iv) W.C. inside dwelling	3
(v) Sinks	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows:

Butchers Shops and Sausage Manufacturers	8
Food Shops	51
Bakehouses	6
Public Houses	11
Hotels (with restaurant)	5
Licensed Clubs	4
School Canteens	9
Other Canteens	8
Food Manufacturing	3
Slaughterhouses	3
Cafes	9
Licensed Guest Houses	1

The larger food shops, hotels and cafes were visited at least once during the year. Food manufacturing premises were visited more often. One successful prosecution was taken by the Council under the provisions of section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of a cigarette end found in a meat pie.

Number of inspections made at Food Premises 66

Unsound Food

Retailers in the Borough voluntarily surrender any unsound food in their possession for destruction after inspection by the Public Health Inspectors.

Meat and Poultry at Retail Shops		101 lbs.
Cooked Meat and Meat Products	4 cwt.	77 lbs.
Canned Meat		12 lbs.
Other Canned Foods		59 lbs.
Vegetables	2 cwt.	84 lbs.
Frozen Foods due to cabinet breakdown	2 cwt.	88 lbs.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

SALE OF ICE-CREAM

Number of premises registered for sale of prepacked ice-cream 34

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. Two situated in the town and the third in Henllan.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered since the Meat Inspection Regulations were introduced in 1963.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
1963	1,481	276	2,170	12,842
1964	1,645	114	1,905	10,418
1965	1,880	214	2,774	10,394
1966	2,025	159	3,384	13,451
1967	2,742	107	5,484	24,707
1968	3,094	51	8,684	23,913
1969	2,709	20	10,311	19,691
1970	3,374	34	11,863	21,395
1971	3,504	17	16,494	18,692
1972	4,013	16	17,282	17,183

TABLE SHOWING ANIMALS KILLED AT EACH SLAUGHTERHOUSE

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
Messrs. Bodidris Beef Ltd. .	3,447	14	15,567	10,850
120 Vale Street	317	2	1,715	4,176
92 Vale Street	249	—	—	2,157

The following charges are made by the Council for animals inspected.

Cattle	18p per head
Calves	5p per head
Pigs	5p per head
Sheep	4p per head

Animals are slaughtered daily including Saturdays and Sundays from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The inspection of the meat takes up a large part of the Department's time and an inspector has to be on duty every weekend to inspect the animals slaughtered. This involved 148 hours of duty outside normal working hours.

All the slaughterhouses are subject to regular detailed inspection regarding food hygiene and all three were generally satisfactory.

A new system for the dressing of cattle was installed at Bryn-llyfannen, Henllan, which is a great improvement over the old system.

Many of the carcasses rejected as unfit for human consumption were brought to the slaughterhouses as casualties, all the persons involved have been warned of the risks in accepting this type of animals.

STATISTICS RELATING TO ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING 1972

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
Number killed	4,013	16	17,282	17,183
Number inspected	4,013	16	17,282	17,183

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI

Whole carcasses condemned	9	9	118	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	291	—	2,353	229

TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	127	—

CYSTICERCI

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	18
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	5	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLY

Public water supplies in the Borough are provided by the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board.

The supplies are sampled regularly by the Public Health Department.

NORTH WALES HOSPITAL SUPPLY

22 rural properties in the West of the Borough are supplied with untreated water from the North Wales Hospital Main. These properties have a piped supply of this water which is drawn from Llyn Bran and which is liable to contamination. All the properties on the supply have been warned either to fit suitable water filters or to boil all water used.

In addition to the North Wales Hospital and property, 21 private properties received a piped supply of treated water from the Hospital Main.

BRYN MULAN SUPPLY

The use of this unsatisfactory supply for drinking water has now been discontinued. The four premises which used Bryn Mulan Water have now been connected to a mains supply.

LLEWENI ESTATE SUPPLY

Dwellings and farms on this estate have an adequate and satisfactory supply of piped water from a deep borehole.

Number of properties supplied 9

OTHER SUPPLIES

Some farms and cottages draw water from springs, shallow wells and deep wells. Generally the water is pumped to storage tanks and piped to the dwellings. Sterasyl water filters have been recommended in all cases of doubtful supply and a number are in use.

Number of dwellings connected to main supply	2,730
Number of dwellings supplied from stand pipes	NIL
Number of dwellings using wells and springs	10
Number of dwellings not connected to a Public Water Supply	73
Number of dwellings using untreated water	44
Samples sent for bacteriological examination	16
Number satisfactory	15
Number not satisfactory	1
Number of visits made to premises	27

INSECT AND OTHER PESTS

12 premises were found to be infested by insects and were disinfested successfully.

15 wasps nests were also destroyed where the insects were a nuisance to householders or the public.

Complaints were also received about other household pests which were all attended to.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Investigation of Water Supplies	27
Examination of existing drains	16
Investigation of nuisances	52
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	451
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	57
Disinfection of Premises	2
Inspections — Public Health Act (General)	16
Inspections in connection with Improvement Grants	130
Investigation of Housing Applications	74
Inspections — Slum Clearance	22
Inspections — Housing Repair	47
Inspections — Housing Act (General)	2
Inspections — Qualification Certificates	10
Inspections — Council Houses	132
Slaughterhouses — Visits for meat inspection	1,116
Inspections — Food Premises	66
Inspections — Factories	23
Inspections — Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	42
Inspections — Pet Animals Act	2
Inspections — Petroleum Stores	14
Abandoned Vehicles — Visits re removal	52
Investigation — Rodent Infestation	15
Investigation — Complaints — Noise Abatement	20
Investigation — Clean Air Act	1
Caravans Sites Act	1
Inspection — Civil Amenities Act	15
Visits re National Insurance Act	1

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Year ended 31st December 1972

Properties other than Sewers

	<i>Type of Property</i>	
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
1. Number of properties in district	2,842	82
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ...	182	2
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	103	2
(ii) Mice	92	2
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	156	—
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	15	—
(ii) Mice	—	—

Sewers

4. Sewers infested by rats during the year NIL

A total of 871 visits were made to premises for the treatment of rodents.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	13	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	8	8	—	—
TOTAL	61	23	—	—

PART VIII

OUTWORK — NIL

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

TABLE A
Registrations and General Inspections

<i>Class of premises</i>	<i>Number of premises newly registered during the year</i>	<i>Total number of registered premises at the end of year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year</i>
Offices	4	34	6
Retail shops	4	68	24
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	11	11
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	110	42

TABLE B
Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to Registered Premises 141

TABLE C
Analysis by workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises at end of year

<i>Class of Workplace</i>	<i>No. of persons employed</i>
Offices	220
Retail shops	281
Wholesale departments, warehouses	7
Catering establishment open to the public ...	33
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	541
Total: Males	246
Total: Females	295

